LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for processing a print job comprising the steps of:

   selecting an object in said print job;

   determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects;

   selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step; and

   partitioning said print job based upon said number of usages.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said print job comprises a page description language (PDL) file.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said print job includes at least one of: a plurality of pages and a plurality of documents.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said object is an image.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects further comprises the steps of:

   generating a signature associated with said object; and

   comparing said signature with other signatures stored in an object table.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:

   incrementing a value stored in an object reuse field of an object table.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of uses of said object based upon a result of said determining step

further comprises the step of:

adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: caching said object based upon said number of usages.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: grouping pages with common objects into a partition; and balancing a number of pages between partitions.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: transforming said object, prior to said step of determining, into a predetermined coordinate system and at least one predetermined sequence of rendering operations.

12.   (Previously Presented) A system for processing a print job comprising: a processor for selecting an object in said print job and determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and an object table for storing information associated with said print job, wherein said processor selectively increments a number of usages of said object based upon whether said object has said match, wherein said processor partitions said print job based upon said number of usages.

13.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said print job comprises a page description language (PDL) file.

14.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said print job includes at least one of: a plurality of pages and a plurality of documents.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said object is an image.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor also generates a signature associated with said object and compares said signature with other signatures stored in said object table.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor selectively increments said number of usages of said object by incrementing a value stored in an object reuse field of an object table.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor selectively increments said number of uses of said object by adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object in said object table.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, further comprising:
a cache memory unit for caching said object based upon said number of usages.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor grouping pages with common objects into a partition and balances a number of pages between partitions.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor transforms said object, prior to said determining whether said match exists, into a predetermined coordinate system and at least one predetermined sequence of rendering operations.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing a program that performs the steps of:
selecting an object in a print job;
determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects;

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selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step; and

partitioning said print job based upon said number of usages.

24.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said print job comprises a page description language (PDL) file.

25.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said print job includes at least one of: a plurality of pages and a plurality of documents.

26.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said object is an image.

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said step of determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects further comprises the steps of:

generating a signature associated with said object; and

comparing said signature with other signatures stored in an object table.

28.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:

incrementing a value stored in an object reuse field of an object table.

29.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of uses of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:

adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object.

30.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, further

comprising the step of:

caching said object based upon said number of usages.

31.   (Cancelled)

32.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

grouping pages with common objects into a partition; and

balancing a number of pages between partitions.

33.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

transforming said object, prior to said step of determining, into a predetermined coordinate system and at least one predetermined sequence of rendering operations.

34-58. (Cancelled)

59.   (Previously Presented) A method for processing a print job comprising the steps of:

selecting an object in said print job;

determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and

selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of uses of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:

adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object.

60.   (Previously Presented) A system for processing a print job comprising:

a processor for selecting an object in said print job and determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and

an object table for storing information associated with said print job, wherein said processor selectively increments a number of usages of said object based upon whether said object has said match, wherein said processor selectively increments said number of uses of said object by adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object in said object table.

61.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing a program that performs the steps of:

selecting an object in a print job;

determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and

selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of uses of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:

adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object.